



CARDD
MEPA ROUTING MEMO

To: Mark Bostrom
Through: Autumn Coleman
From: Demi Blythe

Re: MEPA Adoption for Choteau Wastewater Collection System
Improvements – Phase 1

Project Sponsor: City of Choteau

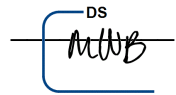
Name of Project: Choteau Wastewater Collection System Improvements – Phase 1

Agreement No: SRF-?

Memo:

DNRC can issue an Adoption Notice for Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Categorical Exclusion and USDA Rural Development Environmental Report for the City of Choteau Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project (attached). **SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

____/s/DEB_ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

A blue ink signature, possibly reading "MJB", is written over a blue line. Above the signature is a small "DS" stamp.

Bureau Chief Review

____ Division Administrator Signature

____ Post for _30_ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

____ File

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Choteau Wastewater Collection System Improvements – Phase 1
Fall 2021
City of Choteau
47°49'0" North Latitude, 112°11'0" West Longitude
Teton County

Existing Environmental Review Document: Montana DEQ Notice of Categorical Exclusion Attached
Below and GreatWest ER link

(<https://greatwesteng.sharefile.com/share/view/sf00b459aa23c4f8185b1c27b6e2ea98a>)

Type and Purpose of Action

The City of Choteau experiences significant infiltration and inflow in its municipal wastewater collection system. In general, I&I can be estimated at 50 to 80 percent of the total flows in the system. The City has identified the existing vitrified clay pipe sections within the area east of 1st Avenue NE from 3rd Avenue NE to 8th Avenue NE as a priority area that experiences high levels of I&I and requires replacement or rehabilitation. The City experienced flooding in January 2020 due to ice jams in Spring Creek. The flooding caused collection system lines in this area to surcharge due to ground and surface water infiltration, and many homes experienced sewer back-ups into their homes. Video inspection revealed several sections of pipe with offset joints, sags, root intrusions, broken pipe, and settlement, all of which allow groundwater to enter the system. The City of Choteau must complete collection system improvements to prevent exposing its residents to raw sewage and protecting public health and water quality.

Choteau is a small farming and ranching community located along the Rocky Mountain Front in Teton County. The Bob Marshall Wilderness area is located 25 miles to the west of Choteau, and rolling prairie extends eastward from Choteau towards Interstate 15, located approximately 25 miles to the east. The nearest large city is Great Falls, located 55 miles southeast of Choteau. US Highway 89 bisects the City, running northwest/southeast, and US Highway 287 extends to the southwest, from the intersection with US Highway 89 near the center of town. Montana Highways 221 and 220 extend east and northeast, respectively, from Choteau. The City is generally located at 47°49'0" North Latitude, 112°11'0" West Longitude Figure 1 (map attached below) shows the project location and area of potential effects (APE), which essentially encompasses the incorporated limits of the City and the wastewater treatment plant. The land surrounding Choteau has primarily cultivated cropland and prairie grassland with some floodplain and riparian systems adjacent to the Teton River and Spring Creek. Land within the City of Choteau is an equal mix of low-intensity residential and commercial areas.

The City of Choteau owns and operates a municipal wastewater system. The system includes a central collection system, one lift station, a mechanical oxidation ditch treatment facility, biosolids storage ponds, sand drying beds, UV disinfection, and discharge to an unnamed ditch that enters the

Teton River. The treatment facility was constructed in 2017 to replace the facultative lagoon treatment that had surpassed its useful life. The old lagoon has not been rehabilitated and is used as an emergency storage lagoon. Great West Engineering completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Choteau's wastewater system in July 2020. The PER evaluated alternatives to address I&I in the collection system and for options to rehabilitate/reclaim the old facultative lagoon. The recommended alternative in the PER is to replace 5,400 lineal feet of collection system pipelines and manholes within the area of the City that has recently experienced flooding and sewer back-ups with new 8-inch PVC. At this time, the recommended alternative to address deficiencies with the treatment system overflows is No Action. Once the construction of the collection system improvements is complete, Choteau will reevaluate the I&I and determine an appropriate strategy to remove accumulated sludge in the old lagoon, expand or create a new emergency overflow pond, and reclaim the remainder of the old lagoon site.

Construction is set to begin September/Fall of 2021.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC approved the loan to provide funding for the Choteau Wastewater Collection System Improvements – Phase 1 Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Prepared By:	Name: Demitra Blythe	Date: 8/9/2021
	Title: CARD Division MEPA/NEPA Coordinator	
	Email: Demitra.Blythe@mt.gov	

Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom	
	Title: CARD Division Administrator	
Signature:	<i>Mark W Bostrom</i>	Date: 8/31/2021

DocuSigned by:

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